

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03373 171241Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7213

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3373

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT: SUBSTANTIVE TALKS

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, CURRENT TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES IN LAGOS CONTAINS NINETY MINUTES (1100-1230) APRIL 1 AND AN HOUR (0930-1030) APRIL 2 FOR GIVEN THE EXPECTED STATE-OF-PLAY TWO WEEKS HENCE ON THE HORN, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA (TO MENTION ONLY THREE ISSUES) AND THE INTEREST AND COMMITMENT OF BOTH HEADS OF STATE REGARDING THOSE PROBLEMS, WE ARE ASSUMING THAT ECONOMIC MATTERS WILL NOT BE RAISED APRIL 1, WE THEREFORE WISH TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF RESERVING AT LEAST AN HOUR IN THE APRIL 2 SCHEDULE FOR ECONOMIC (PRINCIPALLY BILATERAL) SUBSTANTIVE TALKS.

2. DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT PAPER ON OBJECTIVES AND TALKING POINTS, WITH ADDITIONS AND CHANGES AS PROPOSED BY LAGOS 3031, PUTS FORWARD A NUMBER OF HIGHLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT WE RECOMMEND THE PRESIDENT RAISE WITH OBASANJO ON APRIL 2. THESE INCLUDE GENERAL INVESTMENT INCENTIVES, OIL PRODUCTION INCENTIVES, MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, MEASURES TO FACILITATE AND EXPAND TRADE, BOYCOTT ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, AIG, REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, STATUS OF U.S. PARTICIPATION
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IN MIDDLE-LEVEL MANPOWER TRAONING PROGRAM, DEVELOPMENT/INVESTMENT CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR LAGOS IN NOVEMBER, AND NECESSITY OF HAVING NIGERIAN AND U.S. WORKING GROUPS CARRY OUT DISCUSSIONS IN DETAIL ON THESE AND OTHER KEY ISSUES IN U.S. IN LATE APRIL. WHILE WORKING GROUPS WOULD COVER THESE SUBJECTS IN DEPTH, WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT HAVE IOPPORTUNITY TO INDICATE TO OBASANJO HIS PERSONAL AWARENESS OF

THESE ISSUES AND HIS INTEREST IN THE RESULTS THAT WORKING GROUPS MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE. SUCH A MEETING WOULD PROVIDE A TREMENDOUS BOOST TO EVERYTHING WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC/DEVELOPMENT FIELD.

3. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASSURE ADEQUATE HIGH-LEVEL SUBSTANTIVE EXPERTISE AMONG OUR PARTICIPANTS IN THIS APRIL 2 MEETING. WE SUGGEST THAT BOB HORMATS (WHO WOULD BE IDEAL) AND/OR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHNSON BE INCLUDED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. WE BELIEVE FMG IS SIMILARLY REINFORCING OBASANJO FROM ECONOMIC DIVISION OF CABINET OFFICE AND FROM SUBSTANTIVE MINISTRIES.
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